

THE  
R E P U T A T I O N  
O F  
D r . O A T E S ,  
( The first D I S C O V E R E R of the horr'd  
P O P I S H P L O T )

C L E A R ' D I N T H E  
T R Y A L  
O F  
T H O M A S K N O X ,

Formerly a Servant to the Earl of *D A N B Y*, and  
the Lord *D U N B L A I N*, his Son;

A N D

*J O H N L A N E*

Formerly a Servant to Doctor *O A T E S*.

*W H E R E I N*

Is set forth their Endeavours to scandalize the Doctor,  
thereby to invalidate his Evidence; and how the  
Lords in the *Tower*, and others, hired them to it.

Reprinted in. the Year 1679.



THE  
REPUTATION

OF  
DOCTOR

POWELL

TRAY

THOMAS

Formerly of the United States Army  
and now in the service of the

JOHN LANE

London and New York

W. H. & C.

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University of Cambridge

Printed by the author at the

# The REPUTATION of Dr. OATES

(The First Discoverer of the horrid Popish Plot)  
Cleared.

**D** OCTOR *Thomas Oates*, having on the 19th. day of *November* 1679. preferred a Bill of Indictment against *Thomas Knox*, who was formerly Servant to the Earl of *Sanby*, and his Son the Lord *Dunbain*, and *John Lane* and *William Osborn*, (both) once his Servants. The Grand Jury found the Bill against the Three. But *Osborn* being fled, the Court appointed the other two to be tryed on *Saturday* the 22th. instant upon which day the Jury not filling in time, and some other business intervening, the Court adjourn'd the said Tryal until *Tuesday*, the Twenty fifth of *November*,

At which time the Court being sate, there appeared therein a great number of Persons of Honour, and Gentlemen of good Quality, to see and hear a Tryal of such a nature, and a scrutiny that so much concerned the Honour and Reputation of the Protestant Religion, and upon which so much depended the display of Popish Machination.

The Prisoners being brought to the Bar, the Jury sworn, whereof Sir *John Kirk* was Fore man, and the Prisoners arraigned their Indictment was read, to which they severally pleaded, not guilty.

In the Indictment is included in a manner the Sum of their whole Crimes, That whereas it had been proved, that there was a most horrid Plot carried on by *Roman Catholics*, in & out of the Kingdom, against the Life and Government of His most Sacred Majesty, and that divers had been deservedly executed for the same, and others lay still under Imprisonment, in the Tower of London, and elsewhere, for the

Crimes, as the Lords, *Fowis, Petre, Arundel, Bellasis, Castlemain, &c.* as the said *Knox, Lane,* and *Osborn* well knew. Notwithstanding which, they the said *Knox, Lane,* and *Osborn* did maliciously and falsely endeavour to stifle the farther Discovery of the Plot as much as in them lay. And in favour to the said impeached Lords and others, and for the preventing of Justice, and that the said Persons might escape the punishment of the Law, did slander and defame *Dr. Titus Oates* Clerk, and *William Bedlow* Gentleman, two of the Discoverers of the said Plot; and that in order thereunto, *Knox* did heretofore endeavour to bribe one *Mr. Wiggens*, then Servant to *Mr. Bedlow*, to give him Copies of all his Masters papers of Secrecy, that he should take notice of all such Lords as came at any time to discourse his Master; and give him their Names in Writing.

That the said *Knox* had obliged himself to introduce the said *Wiggens* and *Lane* into Company with the Earl of *Danby*, at any hour in the night season.

That the Countess of *Danby*, who well approved of what *Lane* had engaged to endeavour, did likewise offer to introduce *Wiggens* and his Mother to her Lord in her own Coach at any time.

That *Knox* had divers Conference with *Lane* and *Osborn* in the Cloyster walks of the *Abby Church* at *Westminster*.

That upon discovery of this Design in *February* last, *Dr. Oates* expell'd from his Service the said *Lane* and *Osborn*; but that then this *Knox* did hire them Lodgings in obscure places, and sometimes lay with them.

That *Knox* had forged several Letters, as from *Lane* and *Osborn*, directed to himself, therein expressing how perplexed in Conscience they were at the malicious Contrivances of their Master *Dr. Oates*, and *Mr. Bedlow*, against the Earl of *Danby*, and other Lords in the Tower. All which Contrivances they were resolved to discover, and also make it appear, that their said Master was a most vicious and infamous

man,

man, and had made many attempts of Buggery upon the body of *Lane*.

In pursuance of which devillish Design, they did repair to a Justice of Peace, to give in upon Oath their Informations of these forged Crimes against the Doctor, which the said Justice refusing to take, they drew up one themselves, and delivered it to the Lord *Latimer*, who kept it a few days, then delivered it back, to be conveyed to the Lord *Powis* to amend.

That the Lord *Powis* did send it to one Mr. *Henry Nevil*, alias *Paine*, a Prisoner in the Prison of the *Kings Bench*, to enlarge and give colourable Proofs thereunto.

That the said Papers so enlarged and amended, were conveyed unto the Lord *Castlemain* to do the like. From whence they came to the hands of Mr. *Thomas Willoughby*, alias *Dangerfield*, who out of them drew Affidavits, which the said *Lane* offered to swear to before he had read them; adding that he would swear any thing against his Master, so that he might be a gainer.

That afterwards they did swear these forged and contrived Informations before the Worshipful Sir *James Butler*, one of His Majesties Justices of the Peace.

That the said *Knox* did at several times purposely drop or let fall several pieces of Gold called *Guineys*, and sometimes Silver, which they took up as their own.

That *Knox* did promise them, as from the Earl of *Danby*, beneficial Places, either in the Treasury or Customs, and promised them, as from the other Lords in the Tower, Five hundred pounds in hand, and each One hundred pound per Annum to be settled upon them.

That after the Design had gone thus far, they being in February last apprehended and committed to the Gate-house, were examined upon their Oaths by Sir *William Waller*, and Collonel *Warcup*; to whom they confessed, that all they had sworn against Dr. *Oates* was malicious and false, and that they

they were prompted, hired, and encouraged thereunto by the said *Knox*, and that they did verily believe, that the Earl of *Danby*, in confidence of the success of this Design, did surrender himself to the black Rod.

Soon after this they were brought before a Committee of Lords then sitting in the Lord Privy-Seal's Chamber, where also appeared the Two Justices, who shewed their Lordships the said Examination, which they owned, and humbly prayed the mercy and forgiveness of their Lordships, and their Master *Dr. Oates*.

A few days after which they were discharged from the *Gateshouse*; but no sooner had they their liberty, but upon the instigation a second time, of the said *Knox*, in behalf of the Lords, and other Popish persons, but they most impudently and maliciously resumed the prosecution of their aforesaid false and forged Informations against the said *Dr. Oates*; and have also been received and lodged in the House of the Lord *Powis*, and at his charge, & with and from the said Lords, & other Lords in the Tower had, frequent conferences & Directions.

That when they lodged at *Mrs. Cellier's House*, they had an allowance of Ten shillings per Week.

And this present Term did bring the said false, forged, and slanderous papers and matters into the Court of *Kings-Bench*, thence and thereupon to frame an Indictment against the said *Dr. Oates*, which was by the Jury found *Ignoramus*, and thrown out.

After all which they now stand here to make defence to these their villainous Crimes of Forgery and Perjury, and Slandering the King's Evidence.

The Doctor had many Witnesses ( 13 ) to prove the Indictment against them.

I. Sir *William Waller*, and Colonel *Warcup*, produced *Lane* and *Osborn's* Confession upon Oath in February last, as is before-mentioned in justification of *Dr. Oates*.

II. *Mr. Wiggins* and his Mother proved *Knox* his tampering with them against *Mr. Bedlow*. III.



III. One of His Majesties Warders, and Mr. Samuel Oates, declared, That the said Lane & Osborn confessed to them, what great preferments and Rewards they were to have for their work, when done.

IV. Mr. Dangerfield ( whose pardon passed the Great Seal the day before ) did fully declare how & in what manner he was employed by the said Lords in the Tower; to tamper with, and corrupt the said Lane and Osborn with Knox; and did clearly make out, how the said forged papers were mended and enlarged by him and them, and that the Lady Lewis did deliver, or cause to be delivered to the now indicted persons, or their use, Ten shillings per week; which Evidence was strengthened by concurring circumstances from two persons more; and besides them, other Witnesses, which sufficiently proved the Indictment; so that the Jury, without removing from the Bar, pronounced them guilty; at which the people gave a great shout: And the prisoners were committed to the prison of the Kings Bench.

His Majesty was Graciously pleased to give Dr. Oates an Order upon the Lords of his Treasury, for the forthwith reimbursing him all such money, as the full Charge of this prosecution hath amounted unto.

The Judges and Chief Officers of the Court, together with the Jury, had that Honour and Esteem likewise for the Doctor, and were so far convinced of the Injury done him, by being put to such great and unnecessary Charge, that they all forgave him his Fees.

November 27. Dr. Oates appeared at the Kings-bench Bar, and demanded Judgment against the said Knox and Lane, which by reason that the Verdict was not recorded, or if recorded, that the Record was not filed up, or some other formality in Law; they could not pass Judgment until the next Term,

The

The Council for the Doctor were,

Serjeant Maynard,  
The Attorney General,  
The Solicitor General,  
The Recorder,

Sir Francis Winnington,  
Mr. Trenchard,  
Mr. Williams,  
Mr. Smith.

The Counsel against the Doctor were,

Mr. Scroggs the Lord Chief Justice's Son,  
With two more

**FINIS**



